

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend Claims 1, 7, 8, 11, and 16. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

**Claim Listing**

1. (Currently amended) A sanding system comprising:
  - a) a relatively rigid rectangular backing plate having a pair of opposed parallel ends and first and second opposed surfaces, and provided on said first surface with a handle and means to support a sanding pad on said second surface;
  - b) a deformable sanding pad having with rectangular dimensions similar to those of the backing plate and a thickness that is not greater than the shorter of the rectangular dimensions, having abrasive grains adhered to the pad thereby forming and having at least one sanding surface, and having wherein the sanding pad further comprises a pair of opposed parallel ends wherein ~~and~~ at least one of the pair of parallel ends comprises a groove; and
  - c) at least one retaining member means in communication with the backing plate having a generally L-shaped cross section with a plurality of projections extending from an end of the generally L-shaped cross section adapted at one end to pierce a side of the deformable sanding pad in the thickness direction through at least a portion of the groove.
2. (Original) The sanding system according to Claim 1 in which the sanding pad is formed from a resilient open-celled foam.
3. (Original) The sanding system according to Claim 1 in which the sanding pad is formed from a polyurethane foam.
4. (Currently amended) The sanding system according to Claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the generally L-shaped cross section of the at least one retaining member means is generally parallel with at least a portion the groove in the sanding pad.
5. (Original) The sanding system according to Claim 1 in which the sanding pad has from two to four sanding surfaces.

6. (Original) The sanding system according to Claim 5 in which the sanding surfaces of the sanding pad have different sanding characteristics. ~
7. (Currently amended) The sanding system according to Claim 1 in which the at least one retaining member means is formed integrally with the backing plate.
8. (Currently amended) The sanding system according to Claim 1 in which there are two retaining members means.
9. (Original) The sanding system according to Claim 1 wherein the handle is detachable.
10. (Original) The sanding system according to Claim 9 wherein the detachable handle is replaced with a pole sanding mechanism.
11. (Currently amended) A pad for a sanding system for sanding a surface, the sanding system having a relatively rigid rectangular backing plate having a pair of opposed parallel ends and first and second opposed surfaces and provided on said first surface with a handle and means to support a sanding pad on said second surface, and at least one retaining member means in communication with the backing plate having a generally L-shaped cross section with a plurality of projection extending from an end of the generally L-shaped cross section, the pad comprising:
  - a) rectangular dimensions similar to those of the backing plate;
  - b) a thickness that is not greater than the shorter of the rectangular dimensions;
  - c) ~~and having~~ abrasive grains adhered to the pad thereby forming at least one sanding surface; and
  - d) ~~the sanding pad having~~ a pair of opposed parallel ends; and wherein
  - e) at least one of the pair of parallel ends comprises a groove.
12. (Original) The pad according to Claim 11 in which the pad is formed from a resilient open-celled foam.

13. (Original) The pad according to Claim 11 in which the pad is formed from a polyurethane foam.
14. (Original) The pad according to Claim 11 in which the pad has from two to four sanding surfaces.
15. (Original) The pad according to Claim 14 in which the sanding surfaces of the sanding pad have different sanding characteristics.
16. (Currently amended) The pad according to Claim 11 in which the sanding system comprises two retaining members ~~means~~ and both parallel ends of the pad comprise a groove.
17. (Original) The pad according to Claim 11 in which the pad has a first opposed surface and a second opposed surface offset from the first opposed surface forming a trapezoidal shaped pad.
18. (Original) The pad according to Claim 11 in which a portion of the pad under the groove is any geometric shape.
19. (Original) The pad according to Claim 11 comprising a first material and a second material.